industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) Cars are classified under Exim Code No. 87.03 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002, and import of these items is presently restricted. In view of India's International commitments, all quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payment reasons are required to be removed by 1.4.2001.

Research and Information System for the Non Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has conducted a study on behalf of Association of Indian Automobile Manufacturers on the WTO Regime and its implications for the Indian Automobile Industry. This study has stated that the implementation of the commitments undertaken by India as a member of the WTO will have far reaching implications for the automobile industry in India. As regards the impact on the domestic automobile industry in other developing countries, this study has stated that the countries which have allowed the import of second hand (used) vehicles have not been successful in establishing a competitive automobile industry.

However, even after removal of quantitative restrictions, the imports will still be subject to applicable tariffs, technical standards and environmental and safety norms. These measures singly or in combination can be appropriately used to create a level playing field for the domestic automobile industry. A decision on this issue will be taken in due course after examining all relevant aspects.

Corporate Hqs. of tea companies

*154. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major tea companies in Assam have been under pressure from the State Govt, to shift their Corporate Headquarters from outside Assam into Assam;

(b) if so, whether Govt, have received any representations from such companies; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI

MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No representation on the subject has been received from the Tea Companies regarding any pressure from the State Government of Assam to shift Corporate Headquarters from outside Assam to Assam.

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of the Burnpur based HSCO

*155. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh international bids are being called for the modernisation plan of the Burnpur based Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Government has approved a proposal to convert Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO) into a Joint Venture (JV) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) holding minority stake. Action plan for the purpose has not yet-been finalised.

Subsidy on Steel for Orissa

*156. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the iron ore and mineral reserve of Orissa is the significant contributor to steel making process of the country;

(b) whether considering the Super Cyclone of 1999 in Orissa, Government and steel companies in the Public Sector have decided or propose to provide subsidy for concessional availability of construction material—steel;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur have reported that the total recoverable iron (haematite) ore reserves in the State of Orissa are placed at 3294 million tonnes which account for 33% of the total all-India reserve of 10052 million tonnes. Production from these reserves is used for steel making. The other important mineral reserves available in the State